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solid circumferential and central bearing, or to what is called its rest position.

This plan is very simple, very effective, and saves an immense amount of wear and tear in the item of turn-tables. It has already been extensively adopted.

No. XXI.

THE NURSING SYPHON FOR THE SICK-ROOM.

Invented by B. Rotch, Esq. V.P.

The objections to the old spout cup, and other contrivances of the sort, are that none of them conveniently allow of feeding from them, when the patient is lying flat on his back,—a position often necessary, particularly in cases of accident.

The nursing syphon is made of glass, and its short leg will hang conveniently over the edge of any tumbler or other vessel, while its long leg, descending considerably below the tumbler, and bent into a short curve at its lower end, may be introduced into the mouth in whatever position the patient may be lying, while the tumbler, being far above the patient (whether the liquor contained in it be cold or hot), need never come in contact with any part of the person of the invalid,—a great annoyance in some cases where the old feeding-apparatus is used. The quantity of liquid to be administered is entirely under the control of the nurse, and it only flows so long as the finger is kept on the air-tube, while the flow ceases on removing the finger, without withdrawing the vessel containing the liquid from the mouth, the point at which nursing-difficulties often arise, particularly where the patients are children. A small portion of compressed air will always remain between the finger and the surface of the liquid in the syphon, which prevents the fluid ever coming in contact with the finger. Though apparently a trifling invention, its importance and comfort will be fully appreciated in the chamber of the invalid.

No. XXII.

ROBSON'S PATENT SIGNAL-LIGHTS.

By the Secretary.

These lights are especially useful for night-signals at sea, but they are equally applicable in many other cases, as will be afterwards explained. The principal advantages which they possess over other signal-lights hitherto used is the extreme simplicity of the mode of ignition, together with very great safety and more perfect combustion, as little or no dross falls from them while burning. Another important feature of the invention is, that these lights may be so varied as to produce a complete code of signals.

Another advantage is that, from the nature of the composition, they cannot possibly absorb moisture, even although kept in a damp place.

The lights are of different colours, viz. white, red, and green ; there are also projectile lights, and rockets may be fired on the same principle.

The manner in which ignition is produced is by means of a small glass globule of sulphuric acid, placed in an aperture in the handle of the light, and immediately above which is placed a small cake of oxymuriate of potash, divided from the globule by means of a tin slide, and in the aperture is fitted a wooden screw.